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# Foreign Crops and MARKETS



VOLUME 56

NUMBER 13

## WORLD SUMMARIES:

OATS AND BARLEY (Page 200)

CHICKENS AND EGGS (Page 225)

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FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

MARCH 29, 1948

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

# L A T E N E W S

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on foreign markets, converted at current rates of exchange:

COTTON: Spot prices of certain foreign growths and quantities in specific markets

Market location, kind, and quality	Date 1948	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in: foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
Alexandria		Kantar			
Ashmouni, Good.....	3-18	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	83.50	69.66
Ashmouni, F.G.F.....	"	"	"	(not quoted)	
Giza 7, Good.....	"	"	"	(not quoted)	
Giza 7, F.G.F.....	"	"	"	(not quoted)	
Karnak, Good.....	"	"	"	96.50	80.51
Karnak, F.G.F.....	"	"	"	(not quoted)	
Bombay		Candy			
Jarila, Fine.....	"	784 lbs.	Rupee	591.00	22.74
Broach, Fine.....	"	"	"	730.00	28.09
Sind American, Fine.....	"	"	"	825.00	31.75
Punjab " 289-F, Fine..	"	"	"	840.00	32.32
Kampala, East African.....	"	"	"	(not available)	
Buenos Aires		Metric ton			
Type B.....	3-19	2204.6 lbs.	Peso	2,810.00	37.95
Lima		Sp. quintal			
Tanguis, Type 5.....	3-18	101.4 lbs.	Sol	+ 178.00	27.00
Pima, Type 1.....	"	"	"	(not quoted)	
Recife		Arroba			
Mata, Type 5.....	3-19	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	135.00	22.21
Sertao, Type 5.....	"	"	"	155.00	25.50
Sao Paulo					
Sao Paulo, Type 5.....	"	"	"	171.50	28.22
Torreón		Sp. quintal			
Middling, 15/16".....	"	101.4 lbs.	Peso	167.00	33.88

Compiled from weekly cables from representatives abroad.  
+ Nominal.

The cold wave which reached Portugal February 22 and brought torrential rains in the south and snow in the north is reported to have seriously damaged the almond trees which had been near full blossom the previous week.

Shipments of packed apples from British Columbia points destined for markets in the United States totaled 1,768 cars through March 19, according to the British Columbia Tree Fruits, Limited. Of the total, 87 cars moved during the last four weeks of the period.

(Continued on Page 240)



## WORLD OATS AND BARLEY CROPS REDUCED

Latest estimates place the 1947 world production of barley at 2.2 billion bushels and oats at 3.7 billion, according to the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. At that level the crops were significantly below the average of 2.4 billion bushels of barley and 4.4 billion of oats, and the oats crop was smaller than in 1946 as well. The barley outturn was slightly larger than the 1946 harvest. Both oats and barley show some decline from the previous estimate. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, December 8, 1947.)

Barley production was considerably above average in North America, South America and Oceania, but those significant increases were outweighed by sizable reductions in other areas, particularly in Europe and the Soviet Union. Above-average yields, as well as larger acreage, account for the increase in North America and Oceania, while increased acreage alone was responsible in South America. Barley acreage was slightly above average in Europe, but low yields resulted in a small outturn. Acreage in the Soviet Union was estimated to be about 25 percent below average with yields only slightly below average.

Larger than average oats production in the United States and Oceania stems from good yields and some increase in acreage. Both acreage and yields were below average in Europe, the Soviet Union, Asia, and South America. Production in Africa was near average, because of a substantial acreage increase in the Union of South Africa.

In North America production of 425 million bushels of barley was 28 percent above average and slightly larger than the good outturn in 1946. The increase was due to a sharp increase in Canada's barley acreage in recent years and to above-average yields in the United States. Contrasted with the good United States yields, the average yield in Canada was the lowest since 1936.

Oats production of 1.5 billion bushels was moderately above average, but about 20 percent less than the large 1946 crop. Both acreage and yields in the United States and Canada were smaller than in 1946.

Europe's 1947 harvest of barley and oats was considerably below average. Poor yields were responsible in large part, though reduced acreage was also a factor in the decline for oats. Barley acreage, on the contrary, was slightly larger than in 1935-39, but not sufficient to balance the bad effects of the dry weather and reduced supplies of fertilizer and improved seed. Reductions from average were general in the principal producing countries except in the United Kingdom and Eire, where considerable expansion in seeding of grains took place during the war years. Some expansion was also reported for barley in Denmark.

Near-average yields were indicated for the Soviet Union, and the harvests of both barley and rye were believed to be the largest of recent years. Both were, however, considerably smaller than during 1935-39 when the acreage was somewhat larger.

Asia's barley and oats crops were below average and also less than the revised total for 1946, on a tonnage basis. The revision in China's 1946 total was substantial for barley, the latest official estimate placing that production at 342 million bushels compared with the earlier estimate of 289 million

(Text continued on page 238; tables follow)





Africa:																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	</
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Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States foreign service officers, results of office research, or other information. Prewar estimates for countries having changed boundaries have been adjusted to conform to present boundaries, except as noted.

a/ Years shown refer to years of harvest in the Northern Hemisphere. Harvests of Northern Hemisphere countries are combined with those of the Southern Hemisphere which immediately follow; thus, the crop harvested in the Northern Hemisphere in 1947 is combined with estimates for the Southern Hemisphere harvests which began late in 1947 and ended early in 1948.

b/ Figures refer to harvested areas as far as possible.

c/ Yield per acre calculated from acreage and production data shown, except for incomplete periods.

d/ Revised estimates for Northern Hemisphere countries; for Southern Hemisphere preliminary forecasts.

e/ Estimated totals, which in the case of production, are rounded to millions, include allowances for any missing data for countries shown and for other producing countries not shown.

f/ Estimate not adjusted to take account of inclusion of Southern Debrudja and is, therefore, not strictly comparable with estimates shown for later years.

g/ Average of less than 5 years.

h/ Figure for 1935 only.

i/ Estimates for Syria and Lebanon not shown separately during this period.

OATS: Acreage, yield per acre, and production in specified countries,  
year of harvest, average 1935-39, annual 1945-47 a/

Continent and country	Acreage b/		Yield per acre c/				Production			
	Average 1935-39 1,000 acres	1946 acres	Average 1935-39 1947 d/ 1,000 acres	1945 1946 1947 d/ 1,000 acres	1945 1946 1947 d/ 1,000 acres	Average 1935-39 1945 1946 1947 d/ 1,000 acres	1945 bushels	1946 bushels	1947 bushels	1947 d/ bushels
<b>North America:</b>										
Canada e/	13,246	14,393	12,075	25.5	26.5	30.7	338,071	381,596	371,069	278,670
Mexico.....	29	81	77	16.0	18.7	22.0	465	1,516	1,695	1,722
United States.....	35,761	41,933	43,205	38.648	29.2	34.7	1,045,329	1,535,676	1,497,904	1,215,970
Estimated total f/.....	49,040	56,410	55,360	-	-	-	1,384,000	1,919,000	1,871,000	1,496,000
<b>Europe:</b>										
Austria.....	691	481	530	555	41.8	29.4	31.0	28,865	14,120	15,500
Belgium.....	548	460	519	618	74.7	65.2	67.2	40,946	30,000	41,000
Bulgaria.....	313	357	415	410	25.5	9.8	17.1	7,966	3,500	8,000
Czechoslovakia.....	1,830	-	1,482	1,550	46.4	-	-	85,000	-	58,000
Denmark.....	932	830	855	842	75.3	82.6	72.0	70,205	68,536	74,777
Eire.....	571	834	831	826	68.8	60.9	57.5	39,265	50,803	48,250
Finland.....	1,030	762	793	815	43.7	29.9	35.5	45,000	22,775	24,000
France.....	8,089	5,856	6,200	6,670	40.6	32.1	33.7	328,653	187,804	259,762
Germany.....	5,200	-	-	-	60.6	-	-	315,000	-	-
Greece.....	346	269	257	311	24.5	13.8	16.1	8,479	3,720	7,000
Hungary.....	558	522	500	599	35.9	22.6	21.7	20,042	11,781	13,640
Italy.....	1,083	1,073	1,096	1,188	36.1	22.4	27.4	36,360	24,000	31,768
Luxembourg.....	65	52	53	61	44.8	43.1	45.9	2,910	2,235	2,584
Netherlands.....	357	365	438	404	70.9	47.6	66.8	25,314	17,385	29,266
Norway.....	212	211	206	210	61.0	49.2	55.7	12,940	10,382	12,208
Poland.....	4,900	-	-	-	41.6	-	-	204,000	-	-
Portugal.....	607	667	627	580	10.8	7.2	12.1	6,555	4,793	7,000
Rumania.....	1,620	-	-	-	23.1	-	-	37,500	-	-
Spain.....	1,848	1,637	1,587	1,600	21.3	12.6	21.9	39,369	20,700	42,666
Sweden.....	1,641	1,341	1,313	1,308	53.1	38.8	35.8	87,198	52,008	53,930
Switzerland.....	28	109	99	85	56.9	69.4	61.2	1,593	7,565	6,500
United Kingdom.....	2,431	3,752	3,567	3,306	57.0	60.5	53.1	138,628	227,150	203,210
Yugoslavia.....	893	-	-	-	24.5	-	-	21,900	-	-
Estimated total f/.....	35,800	31,030	32,140	33,100	-	-	-	1,606,000	1,170,000	1,308,000
<b>U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)....</b>										
	49,500	-	33,500	36,000	23.5	-	17.9	22.8	1,165,000	820,000





WORLD CHICKEN NUMBERS AND EGG PRODUCTION 1/

Chicken numbers in most countries for which information is available continued to show some increases during the past year, notwithstanding short grain supplies. Egg production, however, showed smaller proportional increases than did chicken numbers. Thus, short grain and feed supplies are reflected more in the rate of lay than in the number of birds.

Due to increases in chicken numbers, Canada, Australia and practically all countries of western Europe except Eire showed appreciable increases in egg production in 1947 over 1946. The United States, Cuba, the Union of South Africa and probably Argentina all had lower egg production in 1947 than in the previous year.

Although increases in chicken numbers are indicated in nearly all countries in western Europe, numbers in individual countries vary considerably in relation to prewar levels. Sweden has about one-fifth more chickens than prewar and France is approximately at prewar numbers. The Netherlands, Belgium, and Denmark are farthest below prewar numbers, but the latter two countries have been able to raise the rate of lay per bird above the prewar rate, thus closing part of the gap in total egg production. In the United Kingdom, chicken numbers and total egg production are still well below prewar but beginning in 1944 there has been a steady increase in both.

Egg production in France in 1947 approximately equalled that of 1937. The freeing of eggs from all price and rationing controls in January 1947 stimulated production and permitted city-dwellers to consume increased quantities of eggs during the year. Because of the limited feed resources from the 1947 crop, however, prospects are that the production of eggs during 1948 will be somewhat below the prewar level.

In the Union of South Africa, current conditions for the production of chickens and eggs are brighter than for any time since 1943, and the industry is now reported to be expanding rapidly.

As in the 1946-47 season, egg production in Argentina continued lower in the 1947-48 season due to the unfavorable export prices of eggs that prevailed from 1945. More recently egg prices have been more favorable and an increase of about 10 percent in flock numbers is expected for next season.

Commercial egg production in Australia for 1947 as a whole was higher than a year earlier, but production costs rose during the year and some reduction in flocks is believed to have occurred. Production and exports of eggs in 1948 may fall below the peak reached in 1947. Although relatively unimportant, chicken numbers and egg production are believed to be lower in New Zealand.

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This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production, approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Crop and Livestock Statistics. For this report, the Committee was composed of Joseph A. Becker, Chairman, Floyd E. Davis, Lois E. Bacon and Karen J. Friedman. 1/ A more extensive statement can be obtained from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

Countries	Date applicable	Average 1934-38	1946	1947	1948
	1/	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
<b>North America</b>					
Canada	1/ Dec. 1	44,077	51,697	54,702	55,000
Guatemala		2/ 664			
Mexico	March	3/ 36,368			
Panama		2/ 195			
United States	Jan. 1	408,177	530,203	474,441	462,976
Cuba	July		10,500	9,000	
Dominican Republic		2,358	1,906	1,900	
<b>Europe</b>					
Albania		2,060	1,800		
Austria	1/ Dec. 3	2/ 8,862	3,936	4,068	4,327
Belgium	1/ Dec. 31	2/ 26,885	11,111	13,333	15,000
Bulgaria	1/ Dec. 31	4/ 11,814			
Czechoslovakia	July 1	2/ 31,875			
Denmark	July	2/ 27,643	18,388	19,271	
Eire	June	15,961	15,263	14,537	
Finland 5/	Sept. 1	2,853	6/ 1,167	6/ 1,446	
France 1/	1/ Fall	145,000		144,500	
Germany	1/ Dec.	86,624	8/ 39,018		
Greece 2/	1/ Nov. 30	11,679	8,200	7,500	8,200
Hungary	Feb. 28	4/ 17,880	10/ 16,000		
Italy		76,000	60,000	65,000	
Luxembourg	1/ Dec. 1	2/ 515	280	300	300
Netherlands	June	29,632	10,915	14,209	16,000
Norway	April 15	3,486	1,650	2,200	
Poland and Danzig	July	50,000	20,000	40,000	
Portugal	1/ Dec. 31	11/ 5,716			
Rumania		2/ 31,853	12/ 10,939		
Spain	July 1	13/ 28,972	14/ 22,468		
Sweden	Sept. 16	10,980	14/ 11,353	14/ 13,093	
Switzerland	April	5,544	5,043	5,025	
United Kingdom - Farm	June	73,402	60,576	64,880	
Total	June		76,393	81,526	
Yugoslavia	1/ Dec. 31	18,021			
<b>Asia</b>					
Lebanon	1/ Dec.		1,400	1,450	
Palestine		2/ 1,914			
Syria		2/ 1,525	2,029	1,826	
Turkey		16,794	18,422	18,777	
China			184,984		
Japan	July	51,094	19,000		
Philippine Islands		41,524			
<b>South America</b>					
Argentina	June	15/ 42,988			
Brazil		16/ 59,000			
Chile	June	2/ 1,026			
Paraguay				2,000	
Uruguay		15/ 4,814			
<b>Africa</b>					
Egypt	July	11/ 26,889			
French Morocco		2/ 50,000			
Union of South Africa	Aug.	15/ 14,000	18,600	16,000	
<b>Oceania</b>					
Australia	1/ Dec. 31	15,541	15,000		
New Zealand	March	11/ 3,489			

1/ End of year estimates (October to December) included under the following year for comparisons. Thus for Canada the December 1, 1944 estimate of 61,918 is shown under 1945. Relates to numbers on farms in Canada and the United States, but data for many countries not explicit on this point. 2/ Average for 2 to 4 years only. 3/ 1940. 4/ 1935. 5/ Adult poultry. 6/ 1946 and 1947 are March 1 figures. 7/ 1938 represents chickens raised. 8/ Four zones only. In December 1937, there were 69,582,000 chickens in the territory presently covered by the 4 zones. 9/ All poultry. 10/ September. 11/ 1936. 12/ 58 countries instead of 71. 13/ 1939. 14/ April. 15/ 1937. 16/ 1938.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States foreign service officers, results of office research, and other information. Data relate to prewar boundaries, unless otherwise noted.



EGGS: Number produced 1/ in specified countries, average 1934-38, annual 1945-47

Countries	Average 1934-38	1945	1946	1947
	Millions	Millions	Millions	Millions
<u>North America</u>				
Canada	2,638		3,801	4,296
United States	35,498	55,858	55,590	55,301
Cuba	320	324	300	276
Dominican Republic			60	60
<u>Europe</u>				
Albania	143			
Austria	663	336	220	240
Belgium	1,693	400	1,100	1,380
Bulgaria	682	273		
Czechoslovakia	1,958	596	775	1,025
Denmark	1,979	858	883	995
Eire	1,086	760	801	661
Finland	317		93	117
France	6,200		6,000	6,200
Germany	6,585			
Greece	550	332	352	331
Hungary	1,050	66	110	
Italy	5,600	2,400	4,000	4,600
Luxembourg	55			30
Netherlands	1,978	200	500	700
Norway	369	86	155	224
Poland and Danzig	3,500		2,276	
Portugal	250			
Rumania	1,500		2/ 532	
Spain	1,700			
Sweden	900	970	1,020	1,175
Switzerland	423	250	300	330
United Kingdom-Farm	3/ 3,871	2,090	2,418	2,505
Total	4/ 5,098	3,409	3,850	3,964
Yugoslavia	1,000			
<u>Asia</u>				
Lebanon		65	65	
Palestine	108	150	200	
Syria	92	105	163	90
Turkey	1,003	851	863	876
Japan	3,553	864	936	
<u>South America</u>				
Argentina	1,127			
Brazil	22	47		
Paraguay				100
Uruguay	289			
<u>Africa</u>				
Egypt	751			
French Morocco	1,000			444
Union of South Africa	5/	480		372
<u>Oceania</u>				
Australia 6/	708	1,358	1,468	1,620
New Zealand	430			

1/ Relates to farm production in Canada and the United States, but data for many countries not explicit on this point. 2/ 58 countries. 3/ Year ending in May of year indicated. 4/ 3-year average. 5/ Not available. 6/ Commercial production.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States foreign service officers, results of office research, and other information. Data relate to prewar boundaries, unless otherwise noted.

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COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

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FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND NUTSITALIAN 1947 HAZELNUT  
CROP SMALLER THAN EXPECTED

The 1947 preliminary estimate of hazelnut production in Italy is revised downward to 6,300 short tons, unshelled basis, compared with 47,800 tons in 1946 and 15,700 tons in 1945.

The 1947 harvest was the smallest since 1933 when only 5,500 tons were reported. It is now estimated that the production in the Naples-Avellino district totaled only 3,800 short tons, and that for Sicily 2,500 tons. Quality was the poorest in many years. While it is much too early to forecast the 1948 output, growers generally expect a very large crop.

The disposal of the 1947 crop has been disappointingly slow. Exports were definitely on the limited side, while domestic sales were only a fraction of the previous two seasons. At mid-February it was estimated some 4,200 tons from the 1947 harvest still remained unsold. In addition to the 1947 carry-over, it now appears about 2,200 tons from 1946 are still on hand in Sicily. The present estimate of stocks on hand indicates that Sicily has virtually its entire 1947 pack still on hand, while in Naples the estimated carry-over is 1,600 tons.

Prices have fallen steadily since last fall because of lack of demand. Canada prohibited the importation of hazelnuts from Sicily this season due to the continued presence of "Cimiciato". There has been no demand from oil producers because of the extra large olive oil output of this season.

BRAZIL NUT IMPORTERS  
SEEK IMPROVED QUALITY

A meeting of brazil nut importers and agents in New York early in February proposed certain new requirements in connection with the 1948 importation of unshelled Brazil nuts.

The principal changes proposed relate to quality and method of payment. It is proposed that shipments containing more than 8 percent bad nuts may be rejected by the importer who would be immediately reimbursed. The former arrangement permitted the importer to reject the shipment if bad nuts totalled 10 percent or more. The second proposal is that importers open letters of credit for 90 percent of the invoice value instead of 100 percent as formerly. The remaining 10 percent is to be paid when the shipment has been examined in this country and quality has been determined. These proposals are said to have been unanimously approved by the importers in New York.

The exporters of brazil nuts at Belem held a meeting and unanimously rejected the United States proposals and so informed the importers and agents.

The harvest of Brazil nuts for this season was forecast at 19,300 short tons, unshelled basis, compared with 30,300 tons in 1947. It is also reported that offers to buy at six cents a pound had been received in Belem from United States importers. Exporters in Belem state that the nuts now cost them more than that in the interior and they cannot therefore do business at that level. By mid-February, very few nuts had arrived at export centers and it now appears, that unless agreements on the United States proposals and prices are reached in the near future, supplies of Brazil nuts this season will be very limited.

(Continued on Page 237)

### GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

#### PHILIPPINE RICE CROP ESTIMATE RAISED

The 1947-48 rice harvest of the Philippines is now estimated at 113,485,000 bushels of rough rice, an upward revision of 4,627,000 bushels over the previous estimate, according to the second official forecast. The crop of the preceding year amounted to 107,700,000 bushels, and during the three years ended 1941-42, production ranged from 113,000,000 to 117,000,000 bushels.

Prices of domestic rice during the first week of March were down from mid-February quotations, and were the lowest in several weeks. Prices to producers rose slightly, and quotations on imported rice remained at the December level.

PHILIPPINES: Rice prices per 100 pounds, week ended  
March 6, 1948, with comparisons

Date	:Native, Macan Milled: :ex-warehouse, Manila:			Imported first-class a/	:Rough, delivered Cabanatuan
	: No. 1	: No. 2			
	: <u>Dollars</u>	: <u>Dollars</u>	: <u>Dollars</u>		
	:	:	:	:	:
Nov. 15-21, 1947 <sup>b/</sup> -High	: 9.31	: 9.11	:	12.11	: 5.29
Nov. 15-21, 1947 <sup>b/</sup> -Low	: 9.11	: 8.91	:	12.11	: 5.29
Dec. 15-20-High	: 10.12	: 9.92	:	9.11	: 5.54
Dec. 15-20-Low	: 9.52	: 9.11	:	9.11	: 5.54
Jan. 12-17, 1948-High	: 10.53	: 10.33	:	9.11	: 4.79
Jan. 12-17, 1948-Low	: 10.53	: 10.12	:	9.11	: 4.79
Feb. 9-14-High	: 10.53	: 10.33	:	9.11	: 5.29
Feb. 9-14-Low	: 10.33	: 10.12	:	9.11	: 5.29
March 1-6-High	: 9.72	: 9.52	:	9.11	: 5.64
March 1-6-Low	: 9.52	: 9.31	:	9.11	: 5.54

From Daily Market Report, Bureau of Commerce, Philippine Government.

a/ First-class imported usually refers to American rice, and consists of the following classes: Fancy, First, Second, Third, and Parboiled. b/ Week, Saturday through Saturday, thereafter Monday through Saturday.

#### MALAYAN RICE PRODUCTION NEAR PREWAR AVERAGE

The 1947-48 rice crop of the Malayan Union now being harvested is forecast at 26,986,000 bushels (850 million pounds milled) compared with the prewar (1935-36/39-40) average of 27,009,000 bushels (851 million pounds).



The latest official estimate of the current crop shows a marked increase over last year's harvest of 21,314,000 bushels (671 million pounds).

The total planted acreage is forecast at 904,000 acres compared with the corresponding estimate of 810,000 acres in the preceding year. Although the area is above the prewar average, the yield per acre is less, because of a larger percentage of rice now being planted in unirrigated areas..

The yield per acre, however, has increased gradually since the end of the war. The average yield before the war equalled 36.3 bushels per acre, but in 1945-46 it had dropped to 23.6 bushels. For the 1947-48 crop the yield is estimated at 29.9 bushels per acre.

#### PARAGUAY PLANS MORE RICE PRODUCTION

Paraguay may increase substantially its production of rice, following a 1947 survey which showed the climate and soil of that country are well suited for rice growing. Within three to five years, the survey revealed, with proper machinery and financial aid, Paraguay could export important quantities of rice. Authorities indicate that, to plant next season's crop in September and October, about 2,600,000 pounds of first-class seed may be imported. This amount of seed utilized would represent a sown area of from 50,000 to 75,000 acres. The record rice acreage in 1942-43 equalled 21,000 acres.

#### PERU PURCHASES ECUADORAN RICE

The Peruvian Government is purchasing 10 million pounds of rice in Ecuador to help cover the domestic deficit before new-crop rice is available in May. The cost of imported rice is more than the retail ceiling in Peru, and the Government may pay large subsidies to avoid increasing the domestic ceiling price.

(Continued on Page 239)

#### FATS AND OILS

#### NETHERLANDS INDIES COPRA EXPORTS GAIN IN FEBRUARY 1/

In February, copra exports from the Netherlands Indies totaled 14,600 long tons, more than double those of the previous month and 51 percent larger than in February 1947. March and April shipments are expected to at least equal and possibly exceed those of last month.

Total copra production during February amounted to 19,192 tons, in East Indonesia 16,731 and West Borneo 2,461. Copra is being produced primarily for export. Deliveries to local oil mills dropped from approximately 7,000 tons in December to 3,838 in January, and 4,856 in February.

1/ A more extensive statement can be obtained from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

NETHERLANDS INDIES: Copra exports, February 1948 with comparisons  
(Long tons)

Year	Copra	Coconut oil	Total as copra
1935-39....	507,385	14,092	529,753
1946 (May- Dec.)....	53,243	---	53,243
1947 a/ ....	150,227	---	150,227

Country	Copra distribution			
	Average	1947 a/	February	
	1935-39		1947 a/	1948 a/
Mexico .....	12,614		--	--
United States .....	3,909	1,546	--	--
Czechoslovakia .....	4,396	5,000	--	--
Denmark .....	72,375	7,999	--	--
France .....	12,748	4,000	--	2,000
Germany .....	64,674	---	--	--
Italy .....	23,103	---	--	--
Netherlands .....	133,841	114,157	9,706	12,626
Norway .....	31,810	5,469	--	--
Sweden .....	6,886	3,200	--	--
Switzerland .....	17	2,082	--	--
Lebanon .....	---	1,525	--	--
Singapore .....	107,285	--	--	--
Union of South Africa :	---	5,249	--	--
Others .....	33,227	--	--	--
Total .....	507,385	150,227	9,706	14,626

Compiled from official sources.

a/ Subject to revision.

MALAYAN COPRA, COCONUT  
OIL PROSPECTS BRIGHTER

While Malayan copra and coconut oil exports continue small compared with prewar, January shipments were considerably larger than in the same month of last year and well above the 1947 monthly average. January copra and coconut oil exports were 800 and 5,384 long tons, respectively. Coconut oil shipments were the largest since the industry was resumed in July 1946.

Commercial copra production of 15,700 tons during January was somewhat larger than the 1947 average. Coconut oil output amounted to 8,500. Oil stocks of 6,000 tons at the end of January were the smallest in more than a year.

(Table on following page)

MALAYA: Copra and coconut oil exports and imports, January 1948 with comparisons  
(Long tons)

## Exports

Year	Copra	Coconut oil	Total as copra
1935-39 .....	118,251	573	119,161
1946 (July-Dec.) .....	23,429	56	23,518
1947 .....	52,606	2,145	56,011

## Distribution

Country	Copra			Coconut oil		
	Average : 1935-39	1947 a/	January : 1948 a/	Average : 1935-39	1947 a/	January : 1948
Exports:						
United Kingdom .....	57,750	6,119	150	8,857	27,248	2,043
Other European Countries .....	118,490	--	650	2,522	643	1,900
Other British Possessions .....	3,242	--	--	24,011	255	12
Burma .....	--	--	--	b/ 3,907	6,674	200
Hong Kong .....	--	999	--	b/ 1,391	5,763	984
Netherlands Indies .....	--	--	--	2,557	2,357	30
Other Countries .....	12,209	--	--	3,864	234	215
Total .....	191,691	7,118	800	47,109	43,174	5,384
Imports:						
British Possessions .....	10,617	582	18	16	242	38
Netherlands Indies .....	105,500	51,877	5,591	328	1,853	302
Other Countries .....	2,134	147	4	229	50	--
Total .....	118,251	52,606	5,613	573	2,145	340

Compiled from official sources.

a/ Subject to revision.

b/ 2 year average.

CANADA SETS PURCHASE PRICE  
FOR SUNFLOWER SEED, RAPESEED

The Canadian Wheat Board has been authorized to buy sunflower seed and rapeseed during the 1948-49 crop season on the same basis as in 1947-48 - \$.06 per pound, f.o.b. shipping points named by the Board. This price applies to No. 1 C. W. Sunrise sunflower seed (\$.05 per pound for No. 1 C. W. Mennonite), and for clean, dry rapeseed.

In 1947, commercial sunflower-seed production amounted to 10,000 short tons from 25,000 acres, all in the Province of Manitoba. The commercial crop of rapeseed was confined to the Province of Saskatchewan, where 13,000 tons were harvested from 58,300 acres.

(Table on following page)



## BEIGIAN WINTER RAPESEED PROSPECTS PROMISING

Prospects for Belgium's winter rapeseed crop are very promising. Recent reports indicate that 4,146 acres were planted, slightly more than the comparable estimate of 4,029 for 1947. Weather conditions in general have been favorable and there has been practically no winter kill this year. Last year the losses from winter kill were severe and only 2,587 acres were harvested.

### TROPICAL PRODUCTS

#### NICARAGUA'S COFFEE EXPORTS DECLINE

Although exports of coffee from Nicaragua in recent years have been below the prewar (1935-39) average of 264,000 bags, the year 1947 with an export of approximately 165,000 bags marks a new low, being 16 percent less than in 1946 and 25 percent less than the 1940-44 average. In 1947, 99 percent of Nicaragua's coffee exports were destined to the United States. In prewar years the United States took about 44 percent and Europe 55 percent. Only negligible quantities have been shipped to Europe since 1940.

The decline in exports is due to smaller coffee crops. Exportable production from the 1946-47 coffee harvest, part of which was exported in 1946, was placed at 180,000 bags. This was considerably below the 1935-39 average of about 250,000 bags. The 1947-48 crop, however, will be the largest in several years with an estimated exportable production of 230,000 bags.

#### NICARAGUA: Exports of coffee, calendar year 1947 with comparisons

Destination	Average		1945	1946	1947 a/
	1935-39	1940-44			
	Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags
United States.....	115,282	216,515	197,656	190,658	163,867
Other W.Hemisphere....	648	660	6,539	3	-
Europe.....	147,615	1,927	7	5,612	971
Not specified.....	115	-	-	-	514
Total.....	263,660	219,102	204,202	196,273	165,352

Official publications of Nicaragua and foreign service reports.

a/ Preliminary.

#### BRAZIL'S COFFEE CROP LARGER

According to preliminary forecasts, exportable production from Brazil's 1948-49 coffee crop, harvested principally from April to September 1948, will approximate 17,500,000 bags, or about 5 percent more than the 1947-48 exportable production of 16,686,800 bags.

A considerable increase in yield in comparison with the previous season is expected in the States of São Paulo and Northern Paraíba due to three consecutive years of above average rainfall.

The 1947-48 production in Sao Paulo was placed at 8,282,300 bags and that for 1948-49 is forecast by the Sao Paulo Secretary of Agriculture at 9,866,095 bags. The outturn in Espirito Santo and southeastern Minas Gerais is expected to be less owing to the effects of drought. The quality of part of the crop, particularly in southwestern Sao Paulo and southern Espirito Santo, may be lowered due to damage caused by the coffee bean borer.

#### PURCHASES BY WEST AFRICAN CACAO BOARDS

The Gold Coast Cacao Marketing Board reports that its purchases of cacao beans from October 3, 1947, through March 4, 1948, totaled 201,746 long tons (451.9 million pounds). Cacao purchases of the Nigeria Cacao Marketing Board in Nigeria and the Cameroons-Calabar area from the beginning of the season through February 19, 1948, amounted to 64,142 long tons (143.7 million pounds). (For comparison with purchases of previous season, see Foreign Crops and Markets, March 8, 1948, Vol. 56, No. 10.)

#### LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

#### FINE WOOLS PRICES RECOVER SOMEWHAT AT LONDON SALES

Prices of 64-70's, good medium fleeces, for the closing week of the second series of London sales for 1948 showed an increase above the relatively low opening price for the first week of the sales, according to quotations of Krolinger and Fernau obtained through the American Embassy at London. Prices of 56's, fine crossbred, and of 46's crossbred did not increase.

The price of 64-70's for the closing week averaged \$1.53 cents a pound, clean bases, against the opening price of \$1.44, an increase of 6 percent. This is still 5 percent below the price for the closing week of the January sales. The price of 56's fine crossbreds remained nominal at 91 cents, which was 6 percent below the average for the January sales. The fact that this quotations is described as nominal indicates that few transactions were made in these wools.

The coarse crossbred wools, 46's averaged 45 cents a pounds or the same as the opening sales but a little over 20 percent below the average of opening and closing prices for the January sales.

Prices are still at a level considerably above the February and April series of sales a year earlier. Competition increased at the sales progressed, the Continent and France being the chief buyers with the Soviet Union continuing to purchase good merinos and crossbreds.

The Joint Organization has announced that owing to present market uncertainty and Australian and New Zealand shipping delays caused by industrial disputes, future offerings from stocks will be curtailed both in London and in the Dominions. Future offerings will be determined by market and shipping conditions.



The United Kingdom - Dominion Wool Disposals, Ltd., had announced as of February 24, 1948 that they proposed to offer from J. O. stocks an additional 200,000 bales in the last half of the season, making total offerings for January to June 30, of 725,000 bales (approximately 245 million pounds). These offerings are now to be curtailed.

#### ARGENTINE COARSE WOOLS WEAKEN, FINE WOOLS FIRM

Prices of coarse crossbred wool in Argentina still show weakness, according to a cable received by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations dated March 15. Some sales of these wools were made at 20 cents (U.S. per pound c.i.f., New York) compared with a corresponding price of 22 cents a month earlier but offerings have been few. In December the price of coarse crossbreds averaged around 15 cents a pound, and rose sharply to 20.5 cents in the week ended January 10th. Fine grades were also weaker but sellers were holding firmly.

Exports for the first four months of the current season were of record proportions, and reached 169 million pounds, or 61 percent above the same period of 1946-47, also above the same period of any of the war seasons and 66 percent above the average for the four-month period for the five seasons, 1934-35 to 1938-39.

Consular invoices giving declared exports to the United States by grades through February show that in the five-month period a total of 138 million pounds was declared, compared with 61 million pounds a year earlier. Exports of "Cordoba" carpet wool and coarse crossbred wool of 40's and below amounted to 103 million pounds and represented 75 percent of the total to the United States. Last season in the corresponding five months, exports of "Cordoba" and coarse crossbred under 40's amounted to 44 million pounds or 72 percent of total exports to this country. Exports of the finer grades exceeded last year's shipments but represented only a small proportion of total exports, by far the largest share consisting of coarse crossbred under 40's.

#### ARGENTINA: Exports to United States and total. 4 months of 1947-48 season with comparisons

Season	October - January		
	To United States		Total
	1,000 lbs.	Percentage of Total	1,000 lbs.
5 year average			
1934-35 to 1938-39	20,616	20	101,924
1939-40	63,246	59	107,745
1940-41	122,241	82	148,747
1941-42	95,576	94	102,007
1942-43	49,784	90	55,108
1943-44	76,797	88	87,571
1944-45	41,363	82	50,657
1945-46	131,713	82	159,736
1946-47	51,438	49	105,894
1947-48	104,465	62	169,331

Compiled from material submitted by the American Embassy at Buenos Aires.  
Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.



## SYRIAN CARPET WOOL PRODUCTION LOWER IN 1948

Preliminary cabled estimates place the production of shorn carpet wool in Syria for 1948 at between 8 and 10 million pounds, grease basis, compared with a preliminary estimate made at the same time last year of 11 million pounds.

The total production of shorn and pulled wool combined in 1948, on a grease basis is expected to range between 9 and 11 million pounds compared with a total estimate for last year's production of 13 million pounds. The drought in the spring of 1947, poor grazing and heavy slaughter during that year has adversely affected the 1948 wool clip, as expected.

Should current production reach approximately 10 million pounds it will be below the average of 13.2 million pounds for the years 1944-1947 but about equal the 1936-40 average.

The number of sheep surviving in August 1947 was estimated at 2,500,000 out of an estimated 3,280,000 sheep alive at the beginning of 1947. More of this season's lambs are expected to survive than in 1947 when mortality was reported as high as 30 percent.

## NEW ZEALAND WOOL PRICES LOWER

Prices of wool at auctions held at Auckland and Napier in March were 15 to 20 percent lower for average and inferior wools as compared with the January auctions, according to a cable from the American Embassy at Wellington.

Prices were very erratic for "C" grade medium crossbreds 46's at the Auckland sale March 9th, when they were only par to 1/2d. above the reserve price. Prices for "B" grade good average top-making, 46's, were 1 1/2d. above the rese.

Competition was keener toward the end of the Napier sale and better qualities showed an advance of 2 to 3d. above those quoted earlier in the series although lower than in January.

## FRENCH WOOL CREDIT RENEWED

The French wool credit arranged last year between a French company (Groupement I'Importation et Repartition de la Laine), under government auspices, and Lazard Brothers of London for French purchases within the British Empire has been extended until June 1949.

The present arrangements are along similar lines to those agreed upon in 1947-48 except that there has been an increase of £2,500,000 (\$10,000,000) for a five-month period to be drawn and repaid between April and October. The 1947-48 credit was a revolving credit of £12,500,000 (\$48,000,000) and repayment was linked with exports of French woolen products. The increase was due to higher wool prices and to the increased activity anticipated in the French textile industry.

FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND NUTS

(Continued from Page 229)

FRENCH 1947 WALNUT  
PRODUCTION ESTIMATE LOWER

The 1947 preliminary estimate of France's walnut production is revised downward to 27,500 short tons, unshelled basis, compared with 20,900 tons in 1946 and 12,100 tons in 1945. The crop is the largest since 1940.

In the Grenoble area it is estimated 6,600 short tons of "Grenoble types" (Mayette, Franquette, and Parisienne) were produced, and about 2,200 short tons of Chabert and similar types. In the Bordeaux area estimates are for about 11,000 tons of Cornes and Marbot and the balance other types.

The usual shelling varieties have not been shelled in normal volume so far this season because of the prohibitive prices of the shelled product. The extreme dry weather of last year had a detrimental effect on quality in the Grenoble area with the result that quality generally was much below normal. The entire crop of nuts in the Grenoble area was consumed in France, with the exception of a few small shipments to North Africa. It is estimated at least 80 percent of the crop was sold in the shell.

The quality of the nuts produced in the Bordeaux area was very good. Exports from this area have likewise been limited. The principal reason exports have been small is that the inflated walnut prices in France, despite the revaluated franc, are still higher than those of competing countries. There has also been a heavy demand for nuts in the domestic market. The United Kingdom, normally one of the best outlets for French walnuts, is a closed market due to import restrictions. A little business was recently done with Belgium.

ITALIAN 1947 WALNUT  
ESTIMATE REDUCED

The 1947 preliminary estimate of walnut production in the Sorrento district of Italy has been revised downward to 13,800 short tons, unshelled basis, following a recent outturn check. The reduction resulted from a heavier than anticipated amount of poor kernels. The quality in general was poor. It is reported over 10 percent were shrivelled and wormy and at least 50 percent contained dark kernels.

Exports from this area this year have been very light. Declared exports at the American Consulate to March 1 totalled 400 tons of kernels. There was a few small parcels exported to Belgium, the United Kingdom, Denmark and the Netherlands. Inquiries from United States importers have been sporadic all season. Most recent quotation was \$115 per 220 pounds for white kernels f.o.b. Italian ports. This quotation applies to 50 percent whole kernels and 50 percent broken. Harlequins were \$85 per 220 pounds, 50 percent whole and 50 percent broken kernels.

NEW ZEALAND DRIED APPLE  
FORECAST UNCHANGED

The 1948 preliminary forecast of dried apple production in New Zealand is 300 short tons, the same as last year but 33 percent larger than in 1946.



The commercial production of dried apples in this country is a wartime development, and is intended to supply at least a portion of the domestic demand for this product and utilize surplus and cull apples.

The 1947 production was inadequate to supply domestic needs. It is reported that demand at times during the year was seven times larger than the quantity offered for sale and that supplies were bought up as rapidly as released by processors. There were no exports and the small output this year is expected to be insufficient to meet the anticipated demand.

#### SPANISH ALMOND CROP DAMAGED

The cold wave which swept over much of Spain February 20 and lasted for several days did much less damage to the almond trees than first reports indicated. Present information indicates no damage in the Balearic Islands and Aragon. In the important Reus district the damage is estimated at from 10 to 15 percent. While it is still much too early to forecast the Spanish almond crop, growers and trade sources now feel it will be about the same size as in 1947.

#### CHILEAN RAISIN PRODUCTION DOWN

The 1948 preliminary forecast of raisin production in Chile is 800 short tons compared with 1,000 tons in 1947 and 1,300 tons in 1946. The forecast is 53 percent below the 5 year (1942-46) average of 1,500 tons and 46 percent below the 10 year (1937-46) average of 1,740 tons. The important Elqui Valley in northern Chile is expected to produce about 660 tons compared with 825 tons last year and 1,100 tons in 1946.

The drought of the past several years has lessened the supply of irrigation water in northern Chile, otherwise a much better crop would have been produced. The 1947 pack had been disposed of before the new crop harvest started. Exports during 1947 totalled 204 short tons compared with 552 tons in 1946 and 226 tons in 1945. Peru was the largest buyer of 1947 pack raisins with 89 tons; Ecuador second with 81 tons and Bolivia third with 20 tons. The new crop is expected to be sold at about the same prices as the 1947 pack and in about the same manner. Exports probably will be a little smaller than in the season just closed.

#### WORLD OATS AND BARLEY CROPS REDUCED (Continued from Page 220)

bushels. The revision in production was largely because of an increase in the acreage. Revisions in oats were only minor.

In Africa barley production was somewhat below average and oats slightly below the 1935-39 level. Barley production was, however, larger than the poor outturn of 1946. The expansion in the crop of French Morocco accounts for the gain over 1946, that country's production having increased by about 85 percent. Expanded acreage with above-average yields were responsible. Production in other important producing areas was smaller than average, as well as less than in 1946.

(Concluded on following page)



Harvests of barley and oats in South America were somewhat less than earlier forecast and less than the previous crop. The barley production was, however, considerably larger than the average for 1935-39 largely as a result of a substantial increase in the Argentine acreage; yields were indicated to be below average in that country. The production of oats, in contrast, was smaller than in 1946 as well as below average. Argentina, the only country of importance in oats in that area appears to have had below-average yields and slightly below-average acreage.

Unusually favorable growing conditions in Australia, with some acreage increases, have resulted in exceptionally good outturns for that area, and record harvests have been forecast.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. For this report the Committee was composed of Joseph A. Becker, Chairman, C.M. Purves, Robert L. Gastineau, Judith E. Downey, John A. Haggerty and Lois E. Bacon.

#### GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

(Continued from Page 230)

##### ITALIAN WINTER WHEAT ACREAGE LARGER

Winter wheat seeded up to February 5 in Italy amounted to 11.4 million acres, according to the latest official estimate. Winter wheat constitutes the bulk of the country's total wheat production. The present estimate shows some increase, compared with the official figure of 10.9 million acres for the total wheat area harvested in 1947. Private estimates of last year's area, however, were somewhat higher, indicating that the acreage was about 11.5 million acres.

Growing conditions to date have been very good, according to the latest reports. Yields per acre in 1947 were about 20 percent below the 1935-39 average, largely as a result of drought during the spring and early summer.

##### URUGUAY HARVESTS RECORD WHEAT CROP

The harvest of small grains recently completed in Uruguay was well above average, with wheat the principal grain, now, estimated at 16.8 million bushels. This estimate is the largest on record and about 25 percent above the 1935-39 average. Last season's poor crop of 6.7 million bushels was only about 40 percent of the current outturn.

Unusually favorable weather conditions throughout the growing season, with some increase in acreage, accounts for the large production. Some surplus, possibly about 2 million bushels, is expected to be available for export.

Together with the heavy outturn, prices paid to producers are the largest on record for the country, ranging from \$2.83 to \$2.92 per bushel during the period November 1947-June 1948. Wheat is subsidized to the millers at about \$2.26 per bushel, in line with the country's policy of keeping bread prices at a low level.

LATE NEWS (Continued from Page 219)

A total of 35 States are reported to have received the British Columbian shipments. Illinois leads with 536 cars. Other States which have received 10 or more cars are as follows: Wisconsin 239, Minnesota 143, Texas 115, Michigan 100, Missouri 81, Iowa 68, Massachusetts 46, New York 41, Indiana 40, Pennsylvania 35, Alabama 30, Georgia 26, Florida 25, Nebraska 25, Ohio 24, Tennessee 23, Kansas 21, Oklahoma 20, Mississippi 17, South Carolina 16, North Dakota 14, Kentucky 13, Louisiana 13, and California 12 cars.

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Weather and pastures in the Union of South Africa so far in 1948 continue favorable for milk production. In 1947, the Union experienced better producing conditions than at any time during the last few years. Creamery butter production in 1947 increased approximately 5 percent, cheese 13 percent.

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The Soviet Union is reported to have purchased about 80,000 bales (500 pounds gross) of cotton from Pakistan prior to January 23, 47,000 of which had been shipped as of the middle of March. The cotton was bought on the open market and paid for in pounds sterling. The Pakistan Government raised the export duty on cotton to 60 rupees a bale of 400 pounds (4.52 cents a pound) on February 23, 1948. It was previously increased on January 23 from 20 rupees (1.51 cents) to 40 rupees (3.02 cents), the rate in effect on February 22.

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The 1947-48 cotton crop in Ceylon is estimated at about 600 bales (of 500 pounds gross) from 900 acres. Mill consumption in 1946-47 amounted to 3,600 bales. Imports totaled 3,200 bales. Stocks increased slightly from 2,900 bales on August 1, 1946 to 3,100 a year later.

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The 1947-48 cotton crop in Paraguay is expected to equal about 46,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross) from 188,000 acres planted compared with 55,000 bales from 126,000 acres harvested in 1946-47. Lower yield per acre this year is attributed to damage by grasshoppers and caterpillars, delayed planting because of a short period of civil war and extended drought conditions during the growing period until January. Stocks (all in possession of mills) amounted to 5,000 bales on March 1, 1948, when the new picking season began.

Mill consumption amounted to 5,500 bales in 1947-48 (March-February) and exports totaled 47,000 bales. A resolution issued by the Bank of Paraguay on September 1, 1947, requires that payments received for all cotton exported must be in dollars.

